

Sunday 4th July

As God has called you – live up to your calling – so we are told in Ephesians and as we allow God to speak to us in this set apart time of worship we know this to be true. Some are called to be listeners, healers, carers, others called to be managers, artists, hospitality givers but all are called by the one God and God does not make mistakes.

Chosen, not by order of age or rank, or wealth, or power.
Chosen, simply because God loves all humanity equally.

Today we worship God as those who know the precious gift of being chosen and loved by the One who is Lord of all.

Let us be willing and ready to be influenced by the Holy Spirit—willing to follow where Jesus may choose to lead us and let us worship Father Son and Holy Spirit as chosen, called, redeemed, loved children AMEN

May the God who has called you continue to bless you and challenge you, inspire and encourage you, astonish and delight you, this day, and always. So go now, be blessed, and be a blessing. AMEN

God, we call you King and Lord, and more than that: Omnipotent, Majestic, King of kings, the mighty Lord of Hosts.

We do it because we want to honour you, and these are the biggest words we can find, but we do you a disservice and lead ourselves astray if we imagine that you are anything like the flawed human beings who rule the nations of this world, even the best of them in danger of being corrupted by the power that they wield. Forgive us if we try to make you into our own image of what power and majesty display.

Remind us that Your kingdom is different, Father and if we are tempted to forget that we are in danger of setting ourselves up as little gods, decreeing what the kingdom should look like for our own desires and wants. But leadership for you is always to do with service. Honour is given to the ones who least expect it, and the ones who think they deserve to be first will find themselves at the back of the queue.

Forgive us, gentle God, if we have sought power for the wrong reasons, or used it selfishly. Forgive us if we have valued wealth or status above kindness, honesty and compassion. Forgive us that the structures of the church are often indistinguishable from those of other institutions, our rivalries and power struggles a betrayal of the one we claim to serve. Forgive us for getting caught up in pettiness and selfish attitudes and closed our eyes to the needs before us of the community, church and society into which we have been placed.

Help us here and now to renew our commitment to Jesus, the good Shepherd, the servant King, the one who refused all earthly honours, who chose to die rather than to rule by force, whose life ended in humiliation and failure and who has warned us very clearly what the cost will be if we are serious about following him.

Take us as we are, O God, and make us fit to be part of the kingdom whose only law is love. Make us small enough, weak enough, foolish enough to trust you for all that we need and may there be no glory in it for us, but only for you.

Father may these not simply be words we speak but actions we live as we say together again a prayer uttered by generation after generation but a prayer given from the lips of Jesus himself – Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.. For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory forever and ever AMEN